

**Abstract**

An improved hierarchical storage management (HSM) system used in connection with computer systems is provided. A technique is provided whereby a file having portion(s) migrated to remote storage location(s) may be efficiently relocated, and metadata for the file is updated according to its relocated storage relationships. Thus, when a source file having portions migrated to remote storage is to be re-located or copied by the HSM system to a target file, instead of copying the entire file across all of its associated storage locations, the minimum or efficient set of data is relocated. The metadata describing the source file's migration storage characteristics is updated to reflect its new use in connection with the target file.